CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1 through 63 (canceled).

64. (previously presented) An isolated pyruvate carboxylase gene coding for the amino acid sequence given under SEQ ID NO: 2.

65. (previously presented) An isolated pyruvate carboxylase gene with the nucleotide sequence of nucleotides 165 to 3587 according to SEQ ID NO: 1.

66 through 69 (canceled)

70. (previously presented) The isolated pyruvate carboxylase gene defined in claim 65 with a preceding promoter of the nucleotide sequence from nucleotide 20 to 109 according to SEQ ID NO:1.

71. (previously presented) The isolated pyruvate carboxylase gene according to claim 65 with a preceding tac promoter.

72. (previously presented) The isolated pyruvate carboxylase gene according to claim 71 with a regulatory gene sequence associated with the tac promoter.

73. (previously presented) The isolated pyruvate carboxylase gene according to claim 70 associated with a regulatory gene sequence.

74. (previously presented) A nucleic acid comprising an isolated pyruvate carboxylase gene according to claim 65, preceded by a promoter and associated with a regulatory gene sequence.

75. (previously presented) A vector containing an isolated pyruvate carboxylase gene according to claim 65.

76. (previously presented) A transformed cell containing in replicatable form an isolated pyruvate carboxylase gene according to claim 65.

77. (previously presented) A transformed cell containing a vector according to claim 75.

78. (previously presented) A transformed cell according to claim 76 belonging to the genus Corynebacterium.

79 and 80 (canceled).

81. (previously presented) A pyruvate carboxylase gene isolated from a Corynebacterium and which consists essentially of nucleotides 165 to 3587 according to SEQ ID No. 1.

82. (currently amended) An isolated pyruvate carboxylase polypeptide having an amino acid sequence at least 95% identical to a sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the amino acid sequence of the pyruvate carboxylase polypeptide having the complete amino acid sequence in SEQ ID NO: 2; and

(b) the amino acid sequence of the pyruvate carboxylase polypeptide having the complete amino acid sequence encoded by the clone contained in ~~ATCC Deposit No. PTA 982~~ strain ATCC 13032 WT (pEKO pyc).

83. (previously presented) The isolated pyruvate carboxylase polypeptide of claim 82 wherein the pyruvate carboxylase polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence at least 95% identical to the amino acid sequence of the pyruvate carboxylase polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO :2.

84. (previously presented) The isolated pyruvate carboxylase polypeptide of claim 82 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

85. (currently amended) The isolated pyruvate carboxylase polypeptide of claim 82, wherein the pyruvate carboxylase polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence at least 95% identical to the amino acid sequence of the pyruvate carboxylase polypeptide having the amino acid sequence encoded by the clone obtained ~~in ATCC Deposit No. PTA-982~~ in strain ATCC 13032 WT (pEKO pyc).

86. (currently amended) The isolated pyruvate carboxylase polypeptide of claim 82 comprising the amino acid sequence encoded by the clone obtained ~~in ATCC Deposit No. PTA-982~~ in strain ATCC 13032 WT (pEKO pyc).

87. (new) A vector comprising an isolated pyruvate carboxylate gene according to claim 64.

88. (new) A vector comprising an isolated pyruvate carboxylate gene according to claim 81.

89. (new) A transformed cell comprising in replicable form an isolated pyruvate carboxylate gene according to claim 64.

90. (new) A transformed cell comprising in replicable form an isolated pyruvate carboxylate gene according to claim 81.